

(b) and (c). The amendments to Import and Export Policy are notified from time to time by Public Notices, copies of which are available in Parliament Library. Significant amendments in Import Policy and Export Policy have been notified by 14 ITC Public Notices and 15 ETC Public Notices respectively.

(d) The Amendments have been carried out in public interest.

Procurement of Silk Yarn for Supply to Weavers

1784. SHRI SHYAMLAL YADAV : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that Varanasi is a big centre of silk cloth;

(b) whether Government are also aware that due to steep rise in prices of silk yarn, ordinary weaver are facing great financial difficulty;

(c) whether Government have decided to supply imported yarn there;

(d) if so, the quantum of silk yarn likely to be procured and supplied there in 1985; and

(e) when it will be supplied ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e). Government had received representations about increase in prices of some varieties of silk yarn at Varanasi. The Central Silk Board was therefore directed to arrange for additional supplies of silk yarn by Karnataka Silk Marketing Board to their Depot at Varanasi. In pursuance of this directives, the Board arranged to send 5 tonnes of silk yarn to Varanasi in August/September, 1985. An additional quantity of 2 tonnes has been sent to Varanasi in 1st week of November. Further, the Central Silk Board has already placed confirmed orders for imported 25 tonnes of raw silk for distribution under its Price Stabilisation

Scheme and the consignment is expected shortly.

[Translation]

Loss to India in trade with West Germany

1785. SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that India has suffered a loss of Rs. 800 crores 1984-85 in trade with West Germany as reported in the 'Nav Bharat Times' of the 26th October, 1985;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the remedial measures being taken or proposed to be taken by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) to (c). As per provisional trade figures, during 1984-85, India's exports to and imports from the Federal Republic of Germany were of the order of Rs. 455.28 crores and Rs. 1262.30 crores respectively. In a developing economy like India, with a high incidence of developmental imports, there is perforce a tendency of deficit trade balance with developed countries. India has been consistently trying to minimise the trade gap not only with the Federal Republic of Germany but with most of the developed countries in West Europe, through various trade promotion measures and bilateral negotiations.

[English]

Role of Cotton Corporation of India in improving Cotton Production

1786. SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the role being played by the Cotton Corporation of India in the matter of improving Cotton production in the country and marketing and export and other allied matters;